



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

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# News Release

## **PREDATOR ARRESTED BY ICE IN PUERTO RICO**

*-Charged with possession and distribution of child pornography-*

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico—A 33-year-old predator was arrested here this morning by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) special agents.

Harry Alejandro-Morales, of Bayamon, Puerto Rico, was indicted on Jan. 12, 2006 by a federal grand jury following an ICE investigation that revealed that he possessed and distributed child pornography. The ICE investigation into the case was based on a referral by the ICE Cyber Crimes Center.

On Feb. 17, 2005, ICE agents executed a federal search warrant at Alejandro-Morales' residence and seized a computer and other electronic storage media devices. Subsequent forensic analysis of Alejandro-Morales' computer revealed more than 1000 images depicting child pornography. It was also discovered that he distributed the child pornography via the Internet.

“Possessing, distributing and manufacturing child pornography is a very serious and despicable crime,” said Lydia St. John-Mellado, special agent-in-charge of ICE in Puerto Rico. “ICE has formed partnerships with several non-governmental organizations, including the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) and others to provide prevention and deterrence in our united fight against child abuse and exploitation.”

Manufacturing, distributing and possessing child pornography carries a penalty of 30, 20 or 10 years in prison, respectively. The manufacturing of child pornography also carries a mandatory minimum sentence of 15 years.

The indictment of Harry Alejandro-Morales contains only charges and is not evidence of guilt. The defendant is presumed innocent and is entitled to a fair trial and the government has the burden of proving guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

This arrest was part of a nationwide initiative known as Operation Predator. Operation Predator protects our children from sexual predators, including those who travel across continents to have sex

with minors. Internet child pornographers and criminal alien sex offenders and child traffickers are also a priority for ICE. Since the initiative was launched in July of 2003, there have been more than 6,500 individuals arrested nationwide.

ICE encourages anyone who wants to report suspicious activity of suspected child predators and suspicious activity through our toll-free hotline at 1-866-DHS-2ICE. Investigators staff this hotline around the clock.

Suspected child sexual exploitation or missing children may be reported to the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children, an Operation Predator partner, at 1-800-843-5678 or <http://www.cybertipline.com>.

# ICE #

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of four integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities.*